

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission,

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As a philatelist and business owner, I've purchased and used Customized Postage (CP) since its inception in 2004. I choose appropriate motives on the stamps (officially called meters) for each recipient to enjoy. I have also used them since 2006 to send out business invoices and statements as well on the return payment envelopes.

Over the past 16 years, I've placed more than 500 orders for over 1,500 sheets of stamps. Many of those are still in retention for future use allowing the USPS use of my purchase monies without providing a service.

The USPS stated that the purchase of CP has decreased in recent times. If that is true, it's not due to lack of interest in the program by the public. During the years that CP has been offered, I've purchased offerings from at least 20 providers and affiliates. Regretfully, all but Stamps.com (SDC) have gone to the wayside. Although SDC does offer PhotoStamps with a square format design area, and postage printable Custom NetStamps with landscape and portrait format design areas, Endicia and Zazzle offered formats not currently available from SDC. Therefore, my purchasing has decreased dramatically as SDC's meager offerings are not fit for all images. Designs that were acceptable before, no longer pass inspection, which also hampered my buying. Just recently, a submission with the words, "Custom Designs" was turned down. But, why is SDC currently allowed to sell thousands of sheets of John Oliver CP, which are inscribed, "AND NOW...A STAMP"? The rulings don't make sense, and aren't consistent.

The tightening of the restrictions in 2018 also limited sales, and caused several lawsuits. No one buys the reasoning that the USPS is under a different set of rules than the public. They can issue Madonna and Child stamps inscribed Christmas, but a family can't buy CP depicting them standing in Moscow, Russia with a former cathedral (that has been a museum for the past 90 years) in the distant background.

There should be a way to continue the program without eliminating as an only means to stop lawsuits. The argument that CP is cutting into postage retail sales also does not make sense. I use multiple CP stamps on each mailing, while otherwise I would be using just a Forever stamp. Either way, the USPS is receiving income from each of my shipments. I also use CP on packages rather than shipping labels.

Over the years, I've received many thanks for greeting cards received by the recipients who stated that they pitched the card, but kept the envelope franked with CP.

Sincerely,



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